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ecology and environment, inc.
111 WEST JACKSON BLVD., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604, TEL. 312-663-9415
International Specialists in the Environment

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: June 9, 1989
TO: File: Seymour of Sycamore
FROM: Regina Bayer and Kathleen J. Getty
SUBJECT: Preliminary Assessment
US EPA ID: ILD005100789
TDD: F05-8807-006
PAN: FIL0652PA

The Seymour of Sycamore site occupies a 12.8-acre parcel of land and is located at 917 Crosby Street within the northwestern boundary of the city of Sycamore, Illinois. Seymour of Sycamore, Inc., manufactures aerosol paints, coatings, and chemicals. Activities at this facility consist of the formulation and containerization of aerosol spray paints.

Wastes generated at the facility include off-specification and waste paints, and spent solvents. The site is owned and operated by Seymour of Sycamore, Inc., the contact person is Richard Gustafson, executive vice president. The facility has been issued a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) generator-status permit and has submitted a Notification of Hazardous Waste Form as required under Section 103(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act for a non-permitted hazardous waste disposal incident involving the burial of a trailer and drums of paint waste.

The Seymour of Sycamore plant began operations on July 5, 1963, and is still in operation. Prior to 1987, historical waste handling practices at the facility were as follows:

- Waste generated in the plant was transferred in drum quantities to a dual semi tank trailer.

- o A full trailer of waste material was hauled for recycling or disposal.

- o After the trailer was emptied, it was refilled with recycled solvent and returned to Seymour of Sycamore for reuse.

The plant operated a pair of trailers in this fashion. These practices were changed in 1987. Waste generated in the manufacturing facility is now piped directly to two aboveground storage tanks. Seymour of Sycamore is currently classified as a generator with permit numbers ILD005100789 (U.S. EPA) and 0370550002 (IEPA).

During an interview with a plant employee, an official from Seymour of Sycamore became aware that a 2000-gallon capacity tank trailer, one that had been used to store and haul wastes and recycled solvents, had been buried on the property in the spring of 1977. The buried trailer was worn and had been taken out of use because of age. According to the facility's records, the trailer was emptied of its contents, except for residual sludge, and buried in a shallow trench in the northwestern corner of the property. The facility filed a Notification of Hazardous Waste Site Form to the U.S. EPA on November 2, 1987.

An environmental assessment was initiated at the Seymour of Sycamore property in October 1987 by Environmental Resoucres Management North Central, Inc. (ERM), at the request of Seymour of Sycamore, Inc. The scope of the investigation consisted of excavation and disposal of the trailer and drums discovered along side it; disposal of two other tank trailers no longer being used; an electromagnetic survey; and a hydrogeological investigation including soil borings, soil sampling, HNu headspace readings, monitoring well installation, and groundwater sampling.

The material discovered in the underground trailer was containerized in 25 drums. The trailer was discovered to be in poor condition and permeated with numerous holes. Thirty-two drums were also discovered

buried in the immediate vicinity of the trailer, 24 of which contained material. These drums were opened, repacked, and disposed of off-site. All soil from the area around the underground trailer and drums were staged on plastic. Visibly contaminated soils were drummed for disposal. The remaining 700 to 800 cubic yards of soil were segregated into five piles and sampled. A plywood and plastic cover was placed over the excavation, and the excavation pit was fenced.

Chemical analysis results of samples from the soil piles detected primarily toluene and xylenes, at concentrations up to 27,700 µg/g and 7,190 µg/g, respectively, along with nine other volatile compounds, and eight metals, including chromium at 1,800 µ/g.

The generalized stratigraphy of the site area consists of approximately 50 feet of silty clay till, underlain by 40 feet of sand and gravel, underlain in turn by bedrock. During excavation of the tank trailer a sand lens was encountered at a depth of 8 feet. The sand lens encountered was 2 feet thick on the south wall of the excavation and 4 feet thick on the north wall of the excavation. The boring hole program determined the extent of the sand lens to the south, east, and west. The upper surface of the sand lens is relatively planar and horizontal. The lower contact of the sand lens dips northward. Results from water, soil, and HNu headspace readings from the boreholes revealed a locally concentrated zone of contamination within the sand lens. The four monitoring wells installed all extend just below the silty clay till into the sand and gravel aquifer. Water samples from these wells were tested for volatile organic compounds, but did not reveal any significant results.

A potential does exist for migration of contamination from contaminated soils to the air through windblown particulates or volatilization of the contaminants. The quantity of soil remaining on-site, however, is small; the current status of the piles of soil is unknown.

The most shallow aquifer in the vicinity of the site is a sand and gravel aquifer 50 feet below the ground surface; the aquifer is overlain

by a silty clay till. Groundwater flow at the site is toward the northwest, away from the municipal wells of the city of Sycamore. There are no private residences located within 1/2 mile of the site to the northwest, and there is no documentation of use of the sand and gravel aquifer as a source of drinking water. The municipal wells of the city of Sycamore within a 3-mile radius of the site obtain drinking water from the deeper Cambrian-Ordovician Unit, which forms the aquifer of concern (AOC). The depth to the AOC is 129 feet.

There is no apparent surface water migration pathway from the site to surface water bodies in the area of the site. Surface water runoff from the site enters a ditch north of the site and is contained in the ditch. An abandoned elevated railroad bed prevents the water from leaving the ditch. Because of the terrain slope, there would be little, if any, surface water runoff to the east, south, or west of the site.

There is only a minimal threat for the public to come into direct contact with contaminants at the site. Although the site is not fenced, the waste quantity is small, and no evidence of casual site use was observed.

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POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 1 - SITE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
IL	D005100789

II. SITE NAME AND LOCATION

01 SITE NAME (Legal, common, or descriptive name of site)	02 STREET, ROUTE NO. OR SPECIFIC LOCATION IDENTIFIER
Seymour of Sycamore, Inc.	917 Crosby Avenue

03 CITY	04 STATE	05 ZIP CODE	06 COUNTY	07 COUNTY CODE	08 CONG DIST
Sycamore	IL	60178	DeKalb	037	14

09 COORDINATES LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
41°59'17.2"	088°41'45.0"

10 DIRECTIONS TO SITE (Starting from nearest public road)
Highway 64 to Fair Street. North one block on Fair Street. Site located north of intersection of Fair Street and Crosby Avenue.

III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

01 OWNER (If known)	02 STREET (Business, mailing, residential)
Seymour of Sycamore Inc.	same as above

03 CITY	04 STATE	05 ZIP CODE	06 TELEPHONE NUMBER
			( )

07 OPERATOR (If known and different from owner)	08 STREET (Business, mailing, residential)
Richard Gustafson, Vice Pres.	c/o Seymour of Sycamore Inc.

09 CITY	10 STATE	11 ZIP CODE	12 TELEPHONE NUMBER
Same as above			( )

13 TYPE OF OWNERSHIP (Check one)
☒ A. PRIVATE ☐ B. FEDERAL _____ (Agency name) ☐ C. STATE ☐ D. COUNTY ☐ E. MUNICIPAL
☐ F. OTHER _____ (Specify) ☐ G. UNKNOWN

14 OWNER/OPERATOR NOTIFICATION ON FILE (Check all that apply)
☒ A. RCRA 3001 DATE RECEIVED 9/10/80 (MONTH DAY YEAR) ☒ B. UNCONTROLLED WASTE SITE (CERCLA 103 c) DATE RECEIVED 11/2/87 (MONTH DAY YEAR) ☐ C. NONE

IV. CHARACTERIZATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD

01 ON SITE INSPECTION
☒ YES DATE 10/-/87 (MONTH DAY YEAR) ☐ NO
BY (Check all that apply)
☐ A. EPA ☐ B. EPA CONTRACTOR ☐ C. STATE ■ D. OTHER CONTRACTOR
☐ E. LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL ☐ F. OTHER _____ (Specify)
PRP initiated inspection CONTRACTOR NAME(S): Environmental Resources Management North Central Inc

02 SITE STATUS (Check one)	03 YEARS OF OPERATION
☒ A. ACTIVE ☐ B. INACTIVE ☐ C. UNKNOWN	7/5/63 (BEGINNING YEAR) | present (ENDING YEAR) ☐ UNKNOWN

04 DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANCES POSSIBLY PRESENT, KNOWN, OR ALLEGED
Wastes are expected to be paints and solvents. Previous sampling indicated toluene, xylene, 9 other volatiles, chromium and eight other metals were present in onsite soil piles.

05 DESCRIPTION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD TO ENVIRONMENT AND/OR POPULATION
Potential hazards include contamination of the groundwater from improperly disposed wastes, and a slight possibilty of direct contact with wastes on-site.

V. PRIORITY ASSESSMENT

01 PRIORITY FOR INSPECTION (Check one. If high or medium is checked, complete Part 2 - Waste Information and Part 3 - Description of Hazardous Conditions and Incidents)
☐ A. HIGH (Inspection required promptly) ☐ B. MEDIUM (Inspection required) ☐ C. LOW (Inspect on time available basis) ☒ D. NONE (No further action needed, complete current disposition form)

VI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

01 CONTACT	02 OF (Agency/Organization)	03 TELEPHONE NUMBER
William Messenger	U.S.E.P.A.	312 353-1057

04 PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSMENT	05 AGENCY	06 ORGANIZATION	07 TELEPHONE NUMBER	08 DATE
Regina Bayer / Kathleen Getty	FIT	Ecology & Environment, Inc	312 663-9415	9/12/88 (MONTH DAY YEAR)

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POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 2 - WASTE INFORMATION

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
IL	D005100789

II. WASTE STATES, QUANTITIES, AND CHARACTERISTICS

01 PHYSICAL STATES (Check all that apply)

- A SOLID
- B POWDER, FINES
- X C SLUDGE
- D OTHER _____ (Specify)
- E SLURRY
- X F LIQUID
- G GAS

02 WASTE QUANTITY AT SITE (Measures of waste quantities must be independent)

- TONS _____
- CUBIC YARDS UNK
- NO OF DRUMS _____

03 WASTE CHARACTERISTICS (Check all that apply)

- X A TOXIC
- B CORROSIVE
- C RADIOACTIVE
- X D PERSISTENT
- E SOLUBLE
- F INFECTIOUS
- G FLAMMABLE
- H IGNITABLE
- X I HIGHLY VOLATILE
- J EXPLOSIVE
- K REACTIVE
- L INCOMPATIBLE
- M NOT APPLICABLE

III. WASTE TYPE

CATEGORY	SUBSTANCE NAME	01 GROSS AMOUNT	02 UNIT OF MEASURE	03 COMMENTS
SLU	SLUDGE			
OLW	OILY WASTE			
SOL	SOLVENTS	UNK		Solvents are used at the facility and were detected in soils
PSD	PESTICIDES			
OCC	OTHER ORGANIC CHEMICALS			
IOC	INORGANIC CHEMICALS			
ACD	ACIDS			
BAS	BASES			
MES	HEAVY METALS	UNK		Heavy metals were detected in soils.

IV. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES (See Appendix for most frequently cited CAS Numbers)

01 CATEGORY	02 SUBSTANCE NAME	03 CAS NUMBER	04 STORAGE/DISPOSAL METHOD	05 CONCENTRATION	06 MEASURE OF CONCENTRATION
SOL	Benzene		Soil Sample from pile	7.8 - 21.1	ug/g
SOL	Ethyl Benzene		" " " "	2.1 - 1110.0	ug/g
SOL	Methylene Chloride		" " " "	5.8 - 520	ug/g
SOL	Tetrachloroethene		" " " "	1.8 - 51.3	ug/g
SOL	Toluene		" " " "	47.5 - 27700	ug/g
SOL	1,1,1 - trichloroethane		" " " "	87.8	ug/g
SOL	Trichloroethene		" " " "	2.6 - 54.0	ug/g
SOL	Total xylenes		" " " "	17.2 - 7190	ug/g
SOL	Acetone		" " " "	11.6 - 388	ug/g
SOL	2 - butanone		" " " "	51.9 - 201	ug/g
SOL	4 - methy - 2 - pentanone		" " " "	38.9 - 1010	ug/g
	Barium		" " " "	65.4 - 807	ug/g
	Cadmium		" " " "	.21 - 92.6	ug/g
	Chromium, total		" " " "	16.4 - 1800	ug/g
	Lead		" " " "	65.8 - 6100	ug/g
	Mercury		" " " "	.03 - .22	ug/g

V. FEEDSTOCKS (See Appendix for CAS Numbers) UNK

CATEGORY	01 FEEDSTOCK NAME	02 CAS NUMBER	CATEGORY	01 FEEDSTOCK NAME	02 CAS NUMBER
FDS			FDS		
FDS			FDS		
FDS			FDS		
FDS			FDS		

VI. SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cite specific references, e.g., state files, sample analysis, reports)

Ecology & Environment, Inc. Chicago FIT files. Region 5.

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POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION	
01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
IL	D005100789

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

01 [X] A GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION — 02 [ ] OBSERVED (DATE _____) — [X] POTENTIAL — [ ] ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 10,034
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
wastes were buried on site in both drums and a tank. In addition surrounding soils were contaminated. These wastes were not contained in any way to prevent migration. The aquifer of concern lies under ~50ft of silty clay till

01 [ ] B SURFACE WATER CONTAMINATION — 02 [ ] OBSERVED (DATE _____) — [ ] POTENTIAL — [ ] ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
There is no known potential for surface migration from the site

01 [X] C CONTAMINATION OF AIR — 02 [ ] OBSERVED (DATE _____) — [X] POTENTIAL — [ ] ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 13482
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
Overall threat from the contaminated soil to the air is low based on a small waste quantity to generate windblown particulates or a gaseous release.

01 [ ] D FIRE EXPLOSIVE CONDITIONS — 02 [ ] OBSERVED (DATE _____) — [ ] POTENTIAL — [ ] ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
Although highly volatile contaminants are present, their presence in soils do not have much potential for fire and explosion.

01 [X] E DIRECT CONTACT — 02 [ ] OBSERVED (DATE _____) — [X] POTENTIAL — [ ] ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
The site is unfenced and wastes may be accessible in the form of contaminated soils.

01 [X] F CONTAMINATION OF SOIL — 02 [X] OBSERVED (DATE 10/87) — [ ] POTENTIAL — [ ] ALLEGED
03 AREA POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: unk (ACRES)
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
An assessment performed in 10/87 by a contractor to Seymour of Sycamore revealed soil contamination as lisred in IV this document

01 [X] G DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION — 02 [ ] OBSERVED (DATE _____) — [X] POTENTIAL — [ ] ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 10,034
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
See Groundwater contamination above.

01 [X] H WORKER EXPOSURE/INJURY — 02 [ ] OBSERVED (DATE _____) — [X] POTENTIAL — [ ] ALLEGED
03 WORKERS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: ~40
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
There is a possibility that workers could come into contact with wastes at the facility however the wastes are not located in an often frequented area.

01 [X] I POPULATION EXPOSURE/INJURY — 02 [ ] OBSERVED (DATE _____) — [X] POTENTIAL — [ ] ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 13,482
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
The population could be exposed either by releases to groundwater or air.

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POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION
01 STATE: IL | 02 SITE NUMBER: D005100789

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS (Continued)

01 ■ J DAMAGE TO FLORA — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE _____) ■ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
It is possible that onsite flora could be damaged by contact with contaminated soil or by uptake of contaminants in the soil.

01 ■ K DAMAGE TO FAUNA — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE _____) ■ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Include name(s) of species)
It is possible that local fauna could ingest on site vegetation that may become contaminated from onsite soil contamination

01 ☐ L CONTAMINATION OF FOOD CHAIN — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
unk

01 ■ M UNSTABLE CONTAINMENT OF WASTES (Spills, runoff, standing liquids, leaking drums) — 02 ■ OBSERVED (DATE 10/87) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 13482 — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
Wastes were buried on site without any containment provisions. Contaminated soil piles are exposed.

01 ☐ N DAMAGE TO OFFSITE PROPERTY — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
None Known

01 ☐ O CONTAMINATION OF SEWERS, STORM DRAINS, WWTPs — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
Unknown

01 ■ P ILLEGAL/UNAUTHORIZED DUMPING — 02 ■ OBSERVED (DATE 10/87) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
Wastes were buried onsite without approval or permit.

05 DESCRIPTION OF ANY OTHER KNOWN, POTENTIAL, OR ALLEGED HAZARDS
unknown

III. TOTAL POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 13482

IV. COMMENTS
The Seymour of Sycamore site is an active aerosol spray paint formulation and containerization facility. A tank trailer and some drums were buried onsite containing possibly off-spec and waste paints and spent solvents. A PRP initiated clean-up is in process.

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cite specific references, e.g. state files, sample analysis, reports)
Ecology and Environment, Inc. Chicago FIT files Region 5

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